



ON **ALL INCLUSIVE**
A room permit system will be introduced and will charge a special tax

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Aruba Tourism Authority in conversations with **the BIGGEST** tourist market

We must continue with creative and innovative companies to increase the touristic market





STRATEGIC MEETINGS for the North American Market

Aruba Tourism Authority in conversations
with the biggest tourist market

RECENTLY, a group of A.T.A. and A.H.A.T.A. traveled to New York and met with the team in the USA. The reason of this visit to New York is to share and give information on the marketing efforts for the biggest tourist market for Aruba, which is the USA. The Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber also was part of this delegation. Moreover, the strategic partners in the touristic industry has updated and planned activities and updated new ideas of the experts in this sector. Together they reached the due orientation for the initiatives and collaborations. More than anything else, this is to continue to develop an open dialogue of discussions on the common area of interest.

Interesting themes had been discussed as 'digitalization' and

actual possibilities, opportunities and technologies in evolution, which includes the 'niche' market and update activities in the media. A very interesting part was the presentation of social media.

The Aruba Digital Ecosystem: Touching on all of our key consumer touch points" where Aruba.com, social media, the special ATA App designed by ATA and the Happiness Builder, websites on travel revisions, all these work together to bring the digital scenery of Aruba close to the client and bring a good result.

Diversification of the market where priority on the media and on the consumer is given which is also a very impotent topic, where interesting discussions were encouraged between

the media and experts of the segments to bring strategies on geographical and demographical diversification.

Guest speaker was Mark Cooper, Vice President and Associate Publisher of 'Departures Magazine'. He elaborated on 'A more Affluent Aruba: A look at real-time Aruba facts and figures from Departures'.

Another quest speaker was Larry Mogelonsky, and respected expert in the hospitality in tourism industry, who shared information on: "Expanding inventory, increasing distribution channels". He elaborated on why the hotels must prioritize the growing competition.

Moreover, the guest speaker, Frederico Gonzalo, expert in the touristic industry, as well as Social media and Online Tourism, elaborated

on the role of "DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) websites as a transactional tool" and the role of DMO in the era of OTA (Online Travel Agents) and the digital scenery for 2015 as well as 'best practices'.

The theme to activate the central market and recognize the market of interest of the affluent traveler and the collaboration between the A.H.A.T.A. and the A.T.A. to create synergy on this topic was of a vital interest.

At the end, the most interesting part till this moment is the so called "Breakout Sessions" where the associates received the opportunity to touch topics of interest with travel agencies as Zimmerman, Concept Farm, U.S.I.M. & Ansira and the sale team of A.T.A. in the USA.

First visit of an Aruban Minister to Cuba

The Dutch Embassy in Cuba received him



THE Minister of Transport, Tourism, Culture and Agriculture of Aruba, Mr. Otmar Oduber, is on an official visit to Cuba the 12th of June.

Since 1986 is Aruba an autonomous country in the Dutch Kingdom, along with the Islands Curacao and Saint Martin in the Caribbean Sea and Holland in the European Continent. Cuba and Aruba, geographically similar, with an immense natural attraction, share interest in development and specializations in the touristic industry.

According to a declaration received from the Dutch Embassy in Cuba, this is the first visit that an Aruban

Minister does to Cuba, since the visit of the Dutch Chancellor last year January.

The program for this official visit contains meetings with his colleagues Ministers of Cuba in Various Ministries, a visit to the Superior Art Institute, Hotel and Tourism School (FORMATUR), and also the unities of production of agriculture.

With the aim to learn more about the efforts of Cuba in the preservation of the cultural heritage, Minister Oduber will meet with the historian, Eusebio Leal Spengler. He will compete this program with a tour at the installations of the 12 edition of the Bienal de La Havana, with the special attention upon the eco-

productions between the two countries, led by the Aruban artist, Nelson Romero Gonzales and financed by the Dutch Kingdom. A exposition of art displayed in the Dutch Embassy in La Havana.

As an initiative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Aruba, the Trade Mission between Aruba and Cuba will also take place during this week. The delegation of Aruba and the Minister left yesterday on the same flight. On Wednesday 10th, the Dutch Embassy in Cuba will offer a reception in honor of Minister Oduber and the delegation of the Chamber of Commerce of Aruba.

A room permit system will be introduced and will charge a special tax on All Inclusive

BEFORE he left on a trade mission with the delegation of the Chamber of Commerce to Cuba, The Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber commented on the ongoing situation related to the selling of the Radisson Hotel of the Carlson Group to the RIU.

The minister explained that the Government decided to intentionally keep this on a 'low profile' since the moment that they decided to unite to the ongoing case in Court for which a verdict is scheduled on the 17th of June.

Aruba Growth Fund decided to file a case asking for a Court Order for Carlson Group to comply with their agreement with them.

The Government by uniting to this case has want to simply express that they will continue to support the management that was published some time ago on the general welfare of Aruba and the large dependence that Aruba has on tourism.

He explained that during his visit in New York, it was noted that Aruba is for a long time now the third country in the world dependent on tourism, but two weeks ago

Aruba took first place on the list of the countries that are dependent on tourism on a large part of the incomes. 'Tourism is practically the pillar of the economy of Aruba and it contributes to 90% directly and indirectly to the employment in Aruba.'

The Government however has not been calm on the issue and has met personally and on the phone with the Carlson Group and the

representatives of Luis Riu who came to Aruba. The Government showed its position very clearly during these meetings, according to Minister Oduber and informed them that the Government considers a violation of commercial ethics the fact

the negotiations with the AGF were discontinued while they have until July to close a deal.

"I believe this has made these groups realize that the position that Aruba is taking is very firm and serious."

At the same time both parties were informed, according to the Minister, that instructions had been given to introduce changes in the law to comply with this management announced by the Government recently.

It includes a permit system for the operations for All Inclusive and the

adds-on, credit vouchers etc. Thus all that is not IP visitors.

Moreover, the Advisory Board and the Parliament will be approached so to attend this more as soon as possible, seeing the general interest of Aruba.

AHATA has also been informed that a process will initiated to create an additional tax for all inclusive rooms, and this is valid also for all existent hotels.

We will meet in the next weeks with AHATA. These two decisions are to protect the general welfare of tourism an economy of Aruba."

Minister Oduber regrets that the opposition leader, Mrs. Evelyn Wever Croes, Mr. Danqui Oduber and Mr. Nel Oduber, who introduced the RIU group in Aruba, are trying to bring confusion. He did not want to go into a deeper discussion, since this is a very important topic to make politics with, but regrets that the community is being mal informed, making believe as if there is a permit system and that these people can manage an 'all inclusive'. 'This is incorrect and this is the reason why we are now of a change of law.'

'Mr. Nelson Oduber, father of the member of Parliament, Danqui Oduber, was the one that has brought the RIU Group in Aruba, which is a 5 stars 'all inclusive' saying that this is a good hotel chain. Today, some years later, maybe the circumstances have changed and the family no longer is doing business with these hotels, we can see that the opposition has changed entirely on RIU, from a super good company to one who is killing our tourism.'

RIU has assured in the conversations that they will not be managing this hotel as an 'all inclusive', however nothing written has been received yet.



After School Care Project in Aruba

The executives of the "After School Alliance" in Washington are very impressed

IN Aruba we have started with the 'After School Care Project' for children who are going to secondary schools. Many young people in Aruba stay home alone after school. This is the reason why the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mike Eman, together with the Minister of Education, Michelle Hooyboer, initiated this tremendous "After School Care Project."

The Prime Minister Eman was in Washington last week on a business trip upon the petition of the Dutch Royal Couple on their visit there and he took the opportunity to visit those in charge of the 'After School Care'. He collected ample and valuable information. The executive Director of the 'After School Alliance' Mrs. Jody Grant was delighted with the visit of the Prime Minister of Aruba.

She explained that the After School Alliance that the Alliance was an organization that is in charge of 26 thousand school curriculums in the entire USA. "Every day more than 10 million students participate in this program and every day there is more than 20 million students that do not have an after school program to where they can participate. We are working hard to mend this situation. Because each young person has the right to be able to participate in a program like this where he can receive important information for a successful life."

She and her team met with the Prime Minister Eman and they were very impressed on the efforts Aruba is doing to create after school activities for young children. It is something tremendous and that the same time necessary.

What they realized is that the youth that participate in these programs finds themselves less in problems with the justice compared to those who do not attend these kinds of programs. These

programs surely make a difference in the community.

"I wish Minister Mike Eman all success with this program that he is implementing on the island of Aruba."

Ed Spitzberg, Vice President of Development at the After School Alliance explained that they are the voice of this school program in the entire USA.

"We ensure that our programs are well communicated in the entire country." Spitzberg said that the American Government sustains this program widely. There is a special program 'The 21st Century Program' that finances this program with the necessary.

"I find it very interesting that the Prime Minister Mike Eman is developing a similar program in Aruba. That is going to have a huge impact on the individual and family level, but also on the community and the entire country. After school programs for the youth has a huge impact. Exactly everything that the Prime Minister said, we stand for in this country. He has the good plan and ideas for this project."

At the end Spitzberg said that they want to help



Aruba where possible.

"We will continue in contact with each other according on how the program in Aruba advances and we will share what we know, what we have experienced

and we hope that this interaction goes both ways. We can learn from each other and will keep an eye on Aruba for the developments on this matter."



Scholarships AWARDED

to two motivated and deserving students

THE Hague University, the University of Aruba and the Ministry of Education of Aruba partner up for Two Full Scholarships for UA students for The Hague Summer School

Two motivated and deserving students of the University of Aruba will be awarded scholarships to attend The Hague University of Applied Sciences 4-week Summer School in July this year. The Hague University offered the two scholarships to the University of Aruba, which includes a full fee waiver and accommodation, when the Ministry of Education of Aruba, accompanied by the University of Aruba and IPA, joined the Dutch delegation of higher institutions to Canada to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands and the friendship and cooperation between Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Recognising the importance of cooperation and collaboration within the Kingdom also, as an added bonus for the scholarship students, the University of Aruba and the Ministry of Education have both offered a flight scholarship to facilitate their participation in this wonderful opportunity. This opportunity directly fits into the

internationalization strategy of the University of Aruba, which now also offers ERASMUS exchange to students to spend one semester of their UA studies in a partner university in Europe. Both the University of Aruba and the Ministry of Education consider international exchange an important part of modern education, which puts our students on the world stage and helps our students become the next generation of leaders and innovators. With this scholarship, two students will study abroad and return to Aruba transformed and agents of change within the University of Aruba and beyond, into society.

The Summer School offers a programme which asks first and foremost to its applicants: 'Do you want to make a difference to the world's "big" issues, like poverty, pollution, environmental, economic crises and peace?' The available modules include: Designing the Future, Changing Entrepreneurship in Society, Security & Society, Designing a Digital Nation, Nudging (influencing decision making and habits in society), and Business and Peace.

We want our students to be agents of change in our society in Aruba. This Summer School scholarship is a stepping stone, allowing our motivated students to go abroad and learn all they can and come back to share their new knowledge. The Ministry of Education and the University of Aruba together applaud and support the students that are ready to embark on this adventure and will be happy to welcome them back after the summer.



Community Footprints Donates 4 laptop and 4 camcorders

to the Imeldahof Foundation



RECENTLY have the ladies and gentlemen of the Ritz-Carlton, Aruba donated 4 laptops and 4 camcorders to the children of the Imeldahof Foundation. This will surely help with the new computer room and making it possible for the children to be better prepared and develop themselves better.

The Imeldahof Foundation organized a big 'Child Fair Last Sunday where there were a huge amount of visitors present to contribute in the collection of funds so that a computer room can be build at the center. The youth presented a talent show for the public and there were also different activities like 'face painting' and Dino Jump. The day concluded with the presentation of the band D.U.R.O.

Management of the Ritz-Carlton, Aruba convey their gratitude to all their employees that lent a hand on this day and helped reach the goal to collect funds that is of vital importance to the education of these children at the Imeldahof.

All Inclusive RESORTS



THERE is heavy criticism that local economies are failing to benefit from all-inclusive tourism. The general consensus is that these all-inclusive operators deny local communities a fair share of tourism revenues. The operator in the host country retains profits and the self-contained nature of all-inclusive resorts means that tourists stay within the property and do not venture out to explore the rest of the island. As a matter of fact, these all-inclusive resorts often build their marketing around the notion of "leaving your wallet at home".

While the widely criticized economic impact of the all-inclusive resorts is undeniable, it is not the only painful perspective. Another principal argument is that of quality. The quality of labor conditions and over time, the quality of the tourism product. These adverse effects on quality are especially relevant to us on Aruba. While Aruba's travel and tourism industry is well established and widely recognized, it risks reaching maturity. Realizing this, the island's government and the ATA, have made substantial investments in the last few years in order to remain appealing and encourage growth not through expansion, rather by improving the experience of tourists with the main strategy focusing on a sustainable tourism product.

What are the effects of all-inclusive resorts on quality?

I. The quality of labor conditions

All-inclusive resorts have picked up some well-deserved bad press over the years for exploiting local labor and giving little back to communities by way of economic benefits. They generally provide extremely limited benefits to local economies, beyond poorly paid jobs. Meanwhile the cost of living for local people increases, and prices of precious natural resources, such as water and power, can become compromised due to heavy consumption by resorts.

All-inclusive resorts are notorious for not sourcing locally and not giving local people a genuine chance of progressing into managerial roles. In February 2013, the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF) and the London-based NGO Tourism Concern agreed to cooperate in investigating the impact of "All-inclusive" tourism on workers and their families. The findings of this research reveal that

the tourist sector in the countries studied is characterized by precarious work, low wages, long working hours, fewer tips and unequal opportunity. And while third world markets of scale, with high unemployment rates, such as Jamaica, Mexico and Dominican Republic could potentially benefit from the significant number of new jobs provided by all inclusive resorts, following the logic that it is better to have a low paying job than be unemployed. It does not apply directly to Aruba for two reasons: Aruba has a limited human capital which means a great bulk of the jobs created by these resorts cannot be filled by the local workforce. Secondly, the group of skilled workforce in Aruba is even more limited, and progression for locals within these types of all-inclusive resorts is

difficult.

Rather than investing in the skills of the local labor force the all-inclusive resorts import their own skilled workforce. As a result there are fewer training opportunities for locals, which mean that there is no progression in the skill-levels of the local labor force for

Opportunities
for





It's All Included



progression within these all-inclusive resorts are obstructed by migrant workers, many of who see tourism in Aruba as a stepping stone to other employment in the region, even in Europe and the opportunity to send money to family at home.

II.

The quality of the tourism product Aruba

ATA, in conjunction with the Aruban government, is focused on travel and tourism development projects through its Tourism Product Improvement Fund. Rather than focusing on growth through the addition of new hotels or rooms, the ATA is investing in enhancing existing facilities and experiences for both stopover and cruise visitors. For example, the government is investing US\$62 million in

moving the island's container ship facility in order to enhance cruise passengers' experience. The government has also financed rebuilding in central Oranjestad and the construction of a new, 10-mile long linear park between the international airport and Palm Beach resorts.

Furthermore, the international airport is receiving US\$20 million for renovations in the forecast period to provide passengers with an "Aruba feeling" when they travel through the airport. On the front of the quality perception and the effect over time on the actual tourism offer, all-inclusive resorts are devastating for an economy dependent on tourism like Aruba and goes straight against a strategy of renewal and enhancement over expansion. The perception of the standard all-inclusive hotel is quantity versus quality, including cheap food and beverage, long buffet lines and a vacation that is not personalized.

An example to illustrate is that of Cyprus, much like Aruba, a beautiful Island, sun, beautiful coastal views, great hospitality and low crime rate which is unique to other countries. Also like Aruba, service and hospitality marked Cyprus as one of the best holiday destinations for years and now with the rapid growth of all-inclusive this theory is on the demise. Unfortunately, Cyprus now attracts all-inclusive tourists who are interested in a cheap deal.

All inclusive-resorts bring the danger of local dying trade, in major all-inclusive markets such as Mallorca and Cyprus, the little shops, bars, restaurants and all the other attractions that attract quality and cultural tourism are closing due to all-inclusive tourism. In order to thrive, the businesses that survive follow a formula of cheap food, drink and poor service.

The damaging effect to the economy and the tourism offer are so severe that in Greece, the government is looking to minimize the all-inclusive holidays that thousands of British holidaymakers enjoy every year. The country's new Prime Minister, Alexis Tsiparis, says all-inclusive resorts restrict tourists to the hotel and are therefore damaging to small local businesses and tourist attraction.

Elena Savvides-Doghman, a long time horeca worker from Cyprus details, "An attempt to become a world leader in mass tourism by encouraging all-inclusive in Cyprus, has resulted in this beautiful island becoming a byword for a shabby ghetto of neon and peeling concrete."





G7 summit:

125 extra UK military trainers to be sent to Iraq



THE UK is to send an extra 125 military trainers to Iraq to help in the battle against Islamic State, the PM has said. David Cameron made the announcement at the G7 in Bavaria, ahead of a meeting with the Iraqi leader on Monday.

Mr Cameron said that ISIS terror activity was "the biggest threat" G7 leaders had to address. The latest pledge will take the number of UK personnel training Iraqi security forces to more than 275, but No 10 dismissed claims of "mission creep."

A spokesman said the additional help was being given at the request of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Most of the extra personnel will be involved in training Iraqi soldiers to deal with explosive devices.

"I think the biggest challenge that we face in terms of the effect on Britain and the challenge in the world is fighting extremist Islamist terror, particularly obviously in Iraq and Syria, but more broadly," said Mr Cameron.

"We're already the second largest contributor in terms of air strikes in

Iraq. We're providing a whole host of support to the Syrian opposition. 'Right thing to do'

"We already have quite a number of people in the KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government area), but these people will be helping more broadly in Iraq.

"It's a particular request that the Abadi government has made. It's a particular thing that we've been working with the Americans on. I think it's the right thing for Britain to do."

The bulk of the extra personnel - around 100 of those deployed - will train local

forces in detecting and dealing with the roadside bombs and booby-trap explosives used by IS. Another 25 will focus on logistical challenges, such as bridge-building.

The UK government first announced in March that it planned to send nearly 60 Army personnel to Iraq to help deliver training for Kurdish forces fighting IS. The team was also sent to focus on the counter-IED training program organized by the coalition fighting IS. More than 1,000 Kurdish troops have already been trained by UK personnel.



The Vaccine for Type-1 Diabetes Is Moving Forward

A promising vaccine to reverse type 1 diabetes heads to a next level trial



A **PROMISING** vaccine that has the potential to reverse the symptoms of type 1 diabetes—an autoimmune disease often diagnosed in childhood—is heading on to a phase II trial, which will test the vaccine on humans with the chronic disease.

The vaccine, called bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) has succeed in reversing type 1 diabetes in a trial among mice and in a phase I trial in 103 humans. The new trial, which the researchers announced on Sunday at the Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association, will last for five years and will test the effect of the vaccine on people with type 1 diabetes among adults between ages 18 to 60. The vaccine may be able to improve the disease

in people who have small but detectable levels of insulin coming from their pancreas. Lead researcher Dr. Denise Faustman, director of immunobiology at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), estimates that about one million people with type 1 diabetes still produce some insulin.

BCG is already FDA-approved as a vaccine for tuberculosis and as a bladder cancer treatment. Researchers have shown that the vaccine can eliminates problematic white blood cells that lead to type 1 diabetes by destroying the beta cells that make and release insulin into the blood.

Previously, the study authors showed they were able to temporarily eliminate the abnormal white blood cells and provide a small return of insulin. The new

trial will provide more frequent doses of the vaccine over a five year periods in 150 adults with the disease. The researchers hope that the vaccine will produce better blood sugar control and could be used to treat advanced disease.

"Type 1 diabetics are a pretty skeptical audience," says Faustman. "There's been a lot of disappointment [from other research]." Faustman says the trial is ambitious because it is focusing on people who have had type 1 diabetes for many years. Other research has looked at treating people with diabetes close to diagnosis. Faustman says that the trial will also help determine what type of dosing may be needed for the vaccine to be successful.

Hurricane BLANCA weakens to tropical storm near Mexico

HURRICANE Blanca weakened to tropical storm force yesterday, as it approached Mexico's Baja California peninsula. Blanca gradually lost steam since reaching category four strength on Saturday and was now packing maximum sustained winds of 110 kilometres per hour, according to the US National Hurricane Centre.

The tropical storm was 210 kilometres southwest of the Cabo San Lucas resort town at 2100 GMT, the centre said. Blanca will move "near or along the coast" of Baja California today, before weakening further into a tropical depression, it said.

In September, the resort of Los Cabos, with about 240,000 residents and popular with American tourists, suffered the brunt of Hurricane Odile, which left six people dead and caused massive property damage.



ABORTIONS **FALL** in Nearly Every U.S. State, Survey Finds

ABORTIONS across the United States have decreased some 12% since 2010, according to a new survey on the most recent data from states' health departments.

Data analyzed by the Associated Press in a report released Sunday indicates a roughly 15% drop in states that have proposed aggressive anti-abortion laws, including Indiana, Ohio, Oklahoma and Missouri. Similar declines were also seen in states that continue to allow access to abortions, like New York and Washington.

While abortion-rights supporters attributed the drop to greater access to contraceptives and a falling teen pregnancy rate, the report noted, anti-abortion advocates pointed to a cultural shift in which more women are choosing to carry their pregnancies the full term.



Prison break: 2 killers escape maximum security prison using power tools

HUNDREDS of authorities are scrambling to find two convicted killers who cut their way out of a maximum security prison in upstate New York with power tools.

Officials discovered Richard Matt, 48, and David Sweat, 34, were missing Saturday morning during a "standing count" of inmates at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York, state police said. The two men cut through a steel wall and followed a series of tunnels until they emerged from a manhole outside the prison walls.

"At first there was a little bit of a panic," said Jimmy Black, who works at the Subway next to the prison, describing the hours after the killers escaped, "but once everyone realized the cops are out and constantly looking, everyone feels much safer."

Despite that sentiment, Gov. Andrew Cuomo is warning against complacency. "These are dangerous people," the governor said. "They are nothing to be trifled with."

Matt was convicted on three counts of murder, three counts of kidnapping and two counts of robbery after he kidnapped a man and beat him to death in December 1997, state police said. He was sentenced

to 25 years to life in prison.

Sweat was serving life without parole after his conviction of first-degree murder in the death of a Broome County sheriff's deputy in July 2002, state police said.

The escape was the first out of the maximum security part of the prison, Cuomo said.

More than 200 law enforcement officers are scouring the area for the escapees. Troopers and corrections officers are searching the woods in the area, and troopers have set up checkpoints on nearby highways. "The guards are pulling people over and checking trunks to make sure everyone's safe," said Black, who commutes 10 minutes to work from Redford, New York. "They're pretty helpful."

An elaborate escape

Matt and Sweat apparently were last seen at 10:30 p.m. Friday during a standing count, authorities said. Head counts are performed every two hours throughout the night when guards visually check to see whether inmates are in their bunks, Clinton Correctional Facility Supervisor Steven Racette said.

The escapees tricked the guards by arranging things in the bunks to look "like people were sleeping ... with these sweatshirt hoodies on," the governor said. The inmates were discovered missing at the 5:30 a.m. inmate count Saturday.

The men had side-by-side cells and apparently obtained power tools to cut through the steel wall in their cells, officials said. Exactly how they got the power tools remains a mystery. Clinton Correctional Facility, which opened in 1845, undergoes regular maintenance, so it's possible the tools came from the workers who are often inside the facility, Cuomo said. The escapees followed a catwalk "down an elaborate maze of pipes into tunnels and exited a series of tunnels at the manhole cover," he said. Prison officials took the governor through the escape route. "It was elaborate, it was sophisticated," he said. "It involved drilling through steel walls, steel pipes."

The facility, in the sparsely populated northeast corner of New York, is the state's largest prison with a population of 2,689 inmates, the corrections department said.

Before fleeing the prison, the men left behind a yellow sticky note on a pipe. "Have a Nice Day!" it read.

More Than 430 Killed in China River Capsizing Are Honored

The capsizing is China's worst maritime disaster since 1948

NEARBY ships blared horns for three minutes Sunday and rescuers bowed in silence to honor the more than 430 victims of the Yangtze River capsizing, as specialists began working on DNA samples from relatives to identify the dead.

The toll from last Monday's overturning of the Eastern Star cruise ship rose to 431 dead with 11 people still missing, said Hu Kaihong, the vice director-general of the press bureau of the State Council Information Office. Fourteen people survived, mostly by swimming or drifting. Three were pulled by divers from the overturned hull Tuesday.

After the ship was pulled upright by cranes and thoroughly checked by Saturday, the search for additional

bodies turned to the river downstream, Hu said. Authorities planned to expand the search from the Hubei province disaster site as far east as Shanghai, more than 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) away.

Transport Minister Yang Chuantang presided over the ceremony Sunday on the huge crane vessel that had been used to pull the Eastern Star up, saying simply, "Please observe silence."

Hundreds of military and police personnel and others took off their hats and bowed as vessels blared their horns. State broadcaster CCTV showed some relatives also bowing as they watched the event on television from where they were staying nearby in Jianli county.

Dozens were driven to a part of the

riverbank about 2 kilometers (a mile) away from the disaster site on Saturday to lay flowers, too far away to see the boat. Sunday marked the seventh day since the tragedy, the first commemorative event in the Chinese cycle of mourning.

Authorities have attributed the overturning of the cruise ship late Monday to a freak storm with tornado-like winds, but also have placed the surviving captain and his first engineer in police custody.

The boat was carrying 456 people, many of them elderly tourists, for a cruise from Nanjing to the southwestern city of Chongqing. Forensic teams were using DNA matching to identify the

remains, but haven't said how long the process will take.

Passengers' relatives have raised questions about whether the ship should have continued its voyage after the storm started in a section of Hubei province and despite a weather warning earlier in the evening.

On Saturday night, relatives were taken by bus to an area upriver of the ship, where they burned incense and tossed flowers into the Yangtze in memory of the dead.

The Eastern Star capsizing is China's worst maritime disaster since the sinking of the SS Kiangya off Shanghai in 1948, which is believed to have killed anywhere from 2,750 to nearly 4,000 people.



Tom Hanks' son is HUNTED BY POLICE

after causing £1,200 damage in hotel

HOLLYWOOD star Tom Hanks' troubled son Chet is being hunted by British police for allegedly smashing up his London hotel room and causing £1,200 worth of damage.

Police were called after staff at the four-star Arora International hotel near Gatwick discovered the room's television had been ripped off the wall and shattered glass all over the floor.

Chester Hanks, 24, an aspiring rapper who has battled a drug addiction since he was 16, is also alleged to have been so 'loud and obnoxious' that other guests in the hotel complained about the noise and a receptionist was forced to ask Hanks to keep the noise down.

Hanks had been making an appearance at a nearby nightclub where he was spotted drinking champagne and vodka in the VIP area. A source told The Mirror: 'He was pretty obnoxious once he started drinking at the club. He kept saying "do you know who I am?"' The source claims Hanks then went back to his hotel with a British actor friend and three female promoters, where he was sick in the car park.

'He asked the girls if they would join him in the bed, but they are not like that,' said the source. 'So he started screaming and making

a right noise. 'He saw some sprinkled make-up and started asking 'who's got the coke?' But nobody did drugs there.' The source added there was then a loud 'smashing and crashing' noise and the next morning police were called after hotel staff discovered the trashed room.

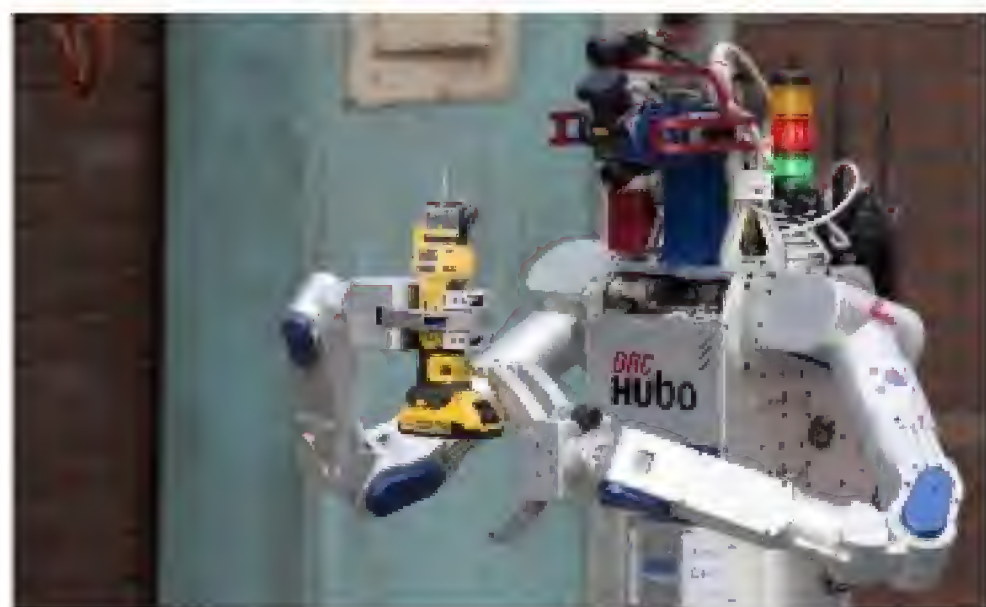
Hanks, whose rap name is 'Chet Haze', was recently blasted by fans on Instagram for using a racial slur when posting about his latest track Juice.

But he defended his use of the word, claiming that it should not have negative connotations related to race issues but instead signifies his identification with hip hop culture.

Last November Hanks revealed via Instagram that he was sober after going to rehab for drug and alcohol addiction. 'I've been struggling with substance abuse since I was 16 years old. 'Finally at the age of 24, I decided to get some help,' he wrote in the post.

'With 50 days of sobriety under my belt, I can honestly say I'm the happiest I've ever been. I'm thankful for my family and everybody that cares about me, including my fans.

In the video, Chet further explained that he wanted his followers to hear the news directly from him. He is one of four children of Hollywood legend Tom Hanks.



South Korean Team Wins **DARPA Robotics Challenge**

Challenge was launched in response to the 2011 nuclear disaster in Japan

A SOUTH Korean team took home the top prize on Saturday at the DARPA Robotics Challenge Finals in California. Team Kaist from Daejeon and its robot, DRC-Hubo, were awarded the grand prize of \$2 million over 22 competing robots, according to DARPA, the military technology arm of the Defense

Department. The humanoid robot had performed the best across a series of eight tasks relevant to natural disaster response, which included tripping circuit breakers, climbing stairs and walking through rubble.

Team IHMC Robotics of Pensacola, Fla., and its Running Man robot took second

place and \$1 million, and the CHIMP robot of Pittsburgh's Tartan Rescue came in at No. 3, earning \$500,000.

The competition, launched after Japan's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in 2011, was intended to accelerate development in robotics with the ability to one day enter

disaster-stricken areas that are too dangerous for humans.

'This is the end of the DARPA Robotics Challenge,' DARPA Director Arati Prabhakar said, 'but only the beginning of a future in which robots can work alongside people to reduce the toll of disasters.'



Cavaliers focus on Game 2

as Kyrie Irving has surgery on knee

KYRIE Irving underwent successful surgery Saturday morning at the Cleveland Clinic to repair his fractured left kneecap.

Shortly thereafter, some 2,500 miles away, Irving's Cleveland Cavaliers teammates and coaches were left to ponder their NBA Finals fate without the All-Star point guard.

"You'd love to see us at full strength, obviously, for the Finals," coach David Blatt said. "The situation as it is is what it is, and we're going to come out and play and play to win. Request no quarter and no sympathy. We've got to come out and play and play to win. That's it."

Added LeBron James: "[I] understand that we were the underdog coming into the series, and with Kyrie being out, people are writing us off. So, I mean, that's fine. That's fine. I'm motivated to get our guys ready to go tomorrow [for

Game 2], and we will be ready."

Blatt, who initially characterized Irving's injury as being of the noncontact variety shortly after Cleveland's 108-100 overtime loss in Game 1 on Thursday, now believes it occurred as a result of a collision with Klay Thompson of the Golden State Warriors that night. Blatt said Irving playing 44 minutes was not a factor in weakening his knee and leaving him susceptible to injury.

"There were no minute restrictions coming into Game 1," Blatt said.

That was a change from the last game Irving had played, the Cavs' closeout win against the Atlanta Hawks in the Eastern Conference finals, when he played 22 minutes and was limited to short bursts of action in between rest periods. There was an eight-day break between the series.

Cavs general manager David Griffin told ESPN.com that the team administered

several tests on Irving's knee in the days leading up to Game 1 and that both his strength and range of motion had shown considerable improvement. Blatt added that he believes Irving's persistent tendinitis was not the direct cause of the fractured kneecap.

The Cavs now must try to crawl out of a 1-0 hole without Irving.

"It's a tough pill to swallow," James said. "Obviously, we've been in this situation, but we always knew at some point he'll come back. Now that he's out for the rest of the Finals and out for a period of a long time, first of all, it sucks for him personally. It's a huge blow for our team, especially at this stage."

"You want to try to be as close to full strength as possible throughout these games, especially when you're going against a worthy opponent like we're facing. So it's a tough situation for our team, and guys have to pick up in his absence."

Two players needed to step up will be Matthew Dellavedova, Irving's likely replacement in the starting lineup, and Iman Shumpert, who played point guard in college and could fill in at the position, according to Blatt.

"We got to continue on," Shumpert said. "Kyrie wouldn't want us to just fold now. We got to make sure that we go out there and get Game 2."

"There is a level of understanding for us in the group that we've followed, I think, especially over the playoffs and just that sense of team that you always have, but I think when you go through some adversity, it builds it stronger and stronger," Dellavedova said.

Irving is the third Cavs player, along with Kevin Love (shoulder) and Anderson Varejao (Achilles), to suffer a season-ending injury. The Warriors remained wary of the Cavs, despite their depleted state.

Stan Wawrinka WINS French Open Over Novak Djokovic

Thwarting Djokovic's bid to complete a career Grand Slam



STAN Wawrinka won the French Open by beating No. 1-seeded Novak Djokovic 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the final Sunday, thwarting Djokovic's bid to complete a career Grand Slam.

The eighth-seeded Wawrinka, so long in the shadow of his Swiss Davis Cup teammate and pal, Roger Federer, collected his second major title after last year's Australian Open.

In doing so, Wawrinka put a stop to Djokovic's 28-match winning streak and left the 28-year-old Serb ruling another close call at Roland Garros. This was the third time in the last four years that Djokovic lost in the final at the clay-court tournament, the only major title he has never won.

Wawrinka earned 1.8 million euros (about US\$2 million).

Champions League:

BARCELONA defeat Juventus

to claim European crown

IT was 12.45am and the first of the treble winners to leave was Ivan Rakitic, heading down the slope in the basement of the Olympiastadion and towards the bus, leading his young daughter by the hand. The rest came a little later. Lionel Messi carried his son Thiago; Dani Alves carried a ghettoblaster on full blast and Sergio Busquets and Xavi Hernández carried the European Cup, one handle each.

This was Barcelona's fifth European Cup, Xavi's fourth, the 28th trophy of his senior career and his 25th with Barcelona. It was also his second treble in six years. The 900th game of his career had ended the same way that the 899th and 898th had: with him lifting a trophy. A week ago it was the Copa del Rey; the week before that, La Liga; now this. "To finish like this couldn't be better," he said.

Out on the pitch, he had raised the European Cup but then seemed keener to keep hold of the match ball, his companion over the past 16 years. Now, though, he carried the trophy out. Maybe he was trying to cling on.

"I already feel a little nostalgic, knowing that I won't ever play with this team again," he said. "But I am happy the way my career has gone. This ending has been incredible. We suffered a lot because Juve pushed us back in the second half after the goal. Mentally it was hard after their equaliser but then Messi appeared yet again, in another move where he tipped the balance. The team was sensational and Messi was brutal, again."

This was Barcelona's fourth European Cup in 10 years, reinforcing their dominance of the decade: no other team in that time has won more than one.

Xavi also insisted that the Barcelona coach, Luis Enrique, is the right man to help the club extend that run, even though Luis Enrique once again refused to give assurances over his future. When the president, Josep Maria

Bartomeu, was asked if the coach would continue, he replied: "That's a question for him." That was true – but it was not a question Luis Enrique was prepared to answer. Asked if he could confirm that he intends to be manager next season, he said: "There's nothing to confirm, only the fact that we'll have a big party."

Xavi said: "Without doubt, he should continue. On a human level, and in terms of results, it's obvious. He's the best man for next year." Andrés Iniesta added: "I hope he is here next season [when] we will have new targets."

Despite the uncertainty, Gerard Piqué said: "I think he will stay." Then he added: "Two trebles? The absolute business – and it doesn't get any better than winning like that, after January when it looked like everything was falling apart, after five brutal months, beating some of the best teams in the world, the champions of England, the champions of Italy, France, Germany. 'The team suffered a lot. That was shown when it went to 1-1, we had 10-15 minutes when we were screwed: they attacked us a lot and defensively we had to struggle. But up front, with the talent those players have, you know that they will take their chances.'"

He said: "We were talking in the dressing room that this is one of the best dressing rooms [atmospheres] we've had in the history of this club and that the [three forwards] have the most talent as well. We have to make the most of this and win as many trophies as possible, to leave this club at the highest

possible level."

Piqué has now won three Champions Leagues while Messi has four. Luis Suárez and Neymar had each clinched their first. For Suárez, this was especially significant. He scored the second goal, taking his tournament tally to seven goals in 10 games, and won a treble in his first season at Barcelona – as many trophies at club level in the past nine months as he had won in the previous nine years. At 28, he had sought out success that was probably overdue; now he had it. A season that began with him serving a ban for biting Giorgio Chiellini, sent home from the World Cup, ended with him as a European champion, scorer of 25 goals, including in the el clásico in the league and at the Parc des Princes, the Etihad and the final in Berlin.

"I came to Barcelona to win titles, to achieve important things and that is what we have done. This was a step I wanted to take," Suárez said. "Things happen in football and I try to turn them round. So much has happened to me. At the World Cup against England, for example, there were people who didn't think I would make it to the game and I was able to score two goals. And then everything that happened afterwards ...

I

had the chance to show people what I am [really about tonight] after all the things that people had said."

Suárez, who admitted that he has felt tired and under pressure in recent weeks, continued: "The first people I thought of were my wife and my two children. They have been through a lot with me; they have suffered with me. They know what I have suffered and sacrificed to get here. I'm grateful to Barcelona for trusting in me after everything that happened and to my team-mates who have been spectacular: they treated me like one of the team from the day I arrived and I will remember that for the rest of my life."

"I always want to achieve more. I never feel satisfied with what I have done," Suárez said. "I had scored in Paris, against City, against Real Madrid, and some people would say: 'it's done'. Quite the opposite. I always want more – and with the quality this team has I think we can win more. At a club like Barcelona you know you're obliged to win. Now we just have to try to enjoy this."

Piqué appeared soon after, the last player to leave and board the bus. In the dressing room he had drawn on a gigantic cigar. "What next?" he was asked. "Enjoy it," he said. "I'm going to get drunk."

